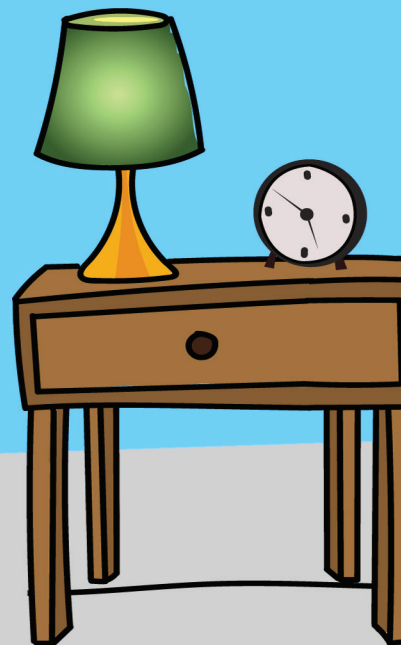


How
~~old~~ young
is Dadi?

by Rajinder Arora



Dadi? I think Dadi is... 75. No wait, she is 78.

No, no, she is 80. Oh, ho!

How does it matter, Dadi is very old.

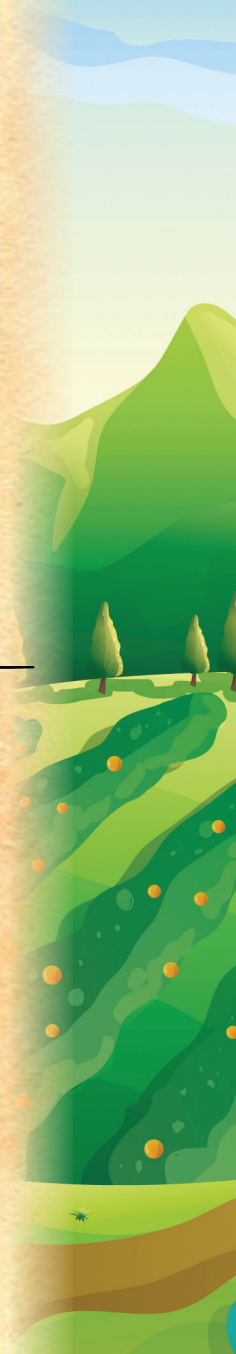
See, Dadi was born before Bindiya.

Yes, Bindiya, that is me.

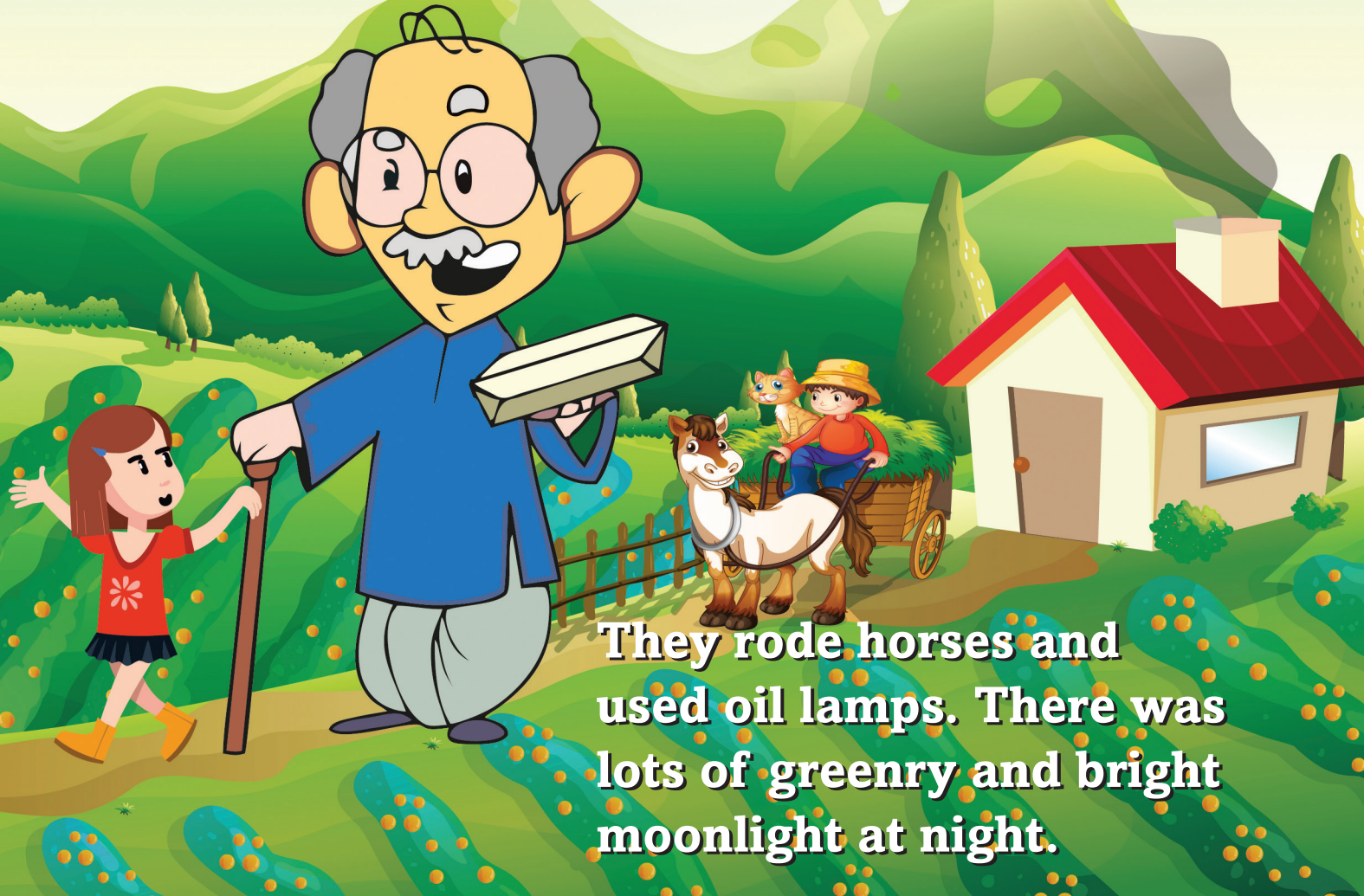


Dadi was there when big Bua was born and even before Papa or Ma was born. Dadu told me that Dadi was born even before him!

Sooooooo.... Dadi is very old.



Dadu says there were no cars, phones or laptops when he was born. There was no electricity or even ice cream.



They rode horses and used oil lamps. There was lots of greenery and bright moonlight at night.

**Yes, Dadi is very old. As old as... hmmmm,
as old as the Earth. Yes, Earth!!!**

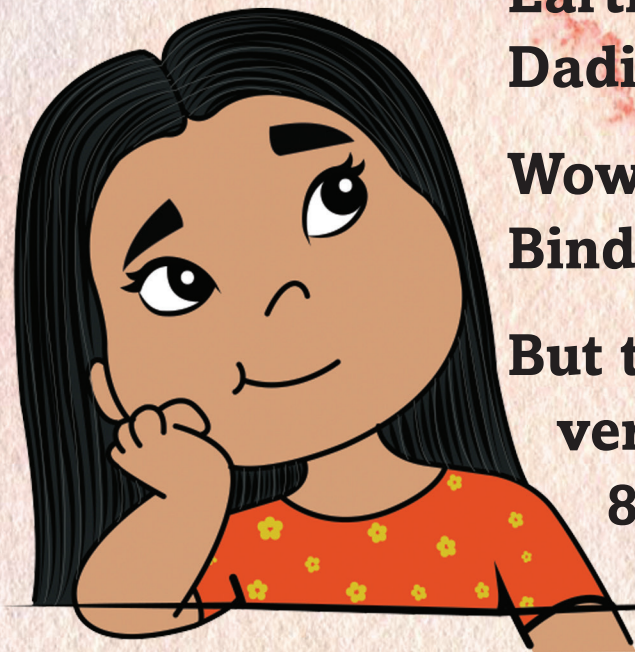
Really, as old as Earth? But how!

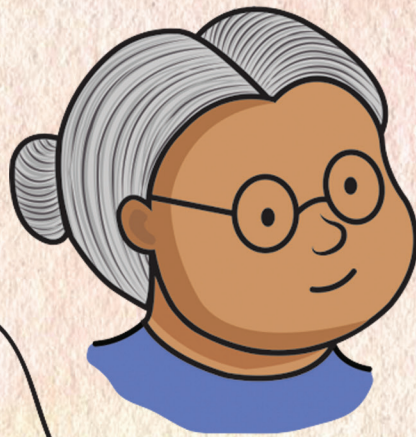
**Let us suppose Dadi is Earth and,
that, Dadi is 80 years old.**

**Which means 57 million years of
Earth's life is equal to one year in
Dadi's life.**

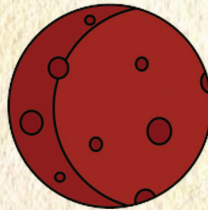
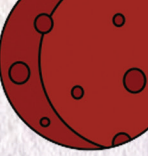
**Wow! That is amazing Maths,
Bindiya. This proves Dadi is young.**

**But the Astronomers say Earth is
very young. So, Dadi is
80 years young.**





But tell me,
when was the
Earth born?





Earth is born



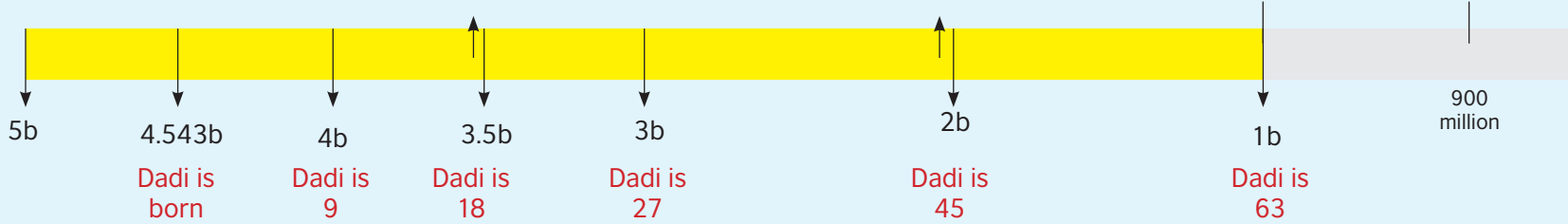
Bacteria and/or archaea 3.62 billion years



Single-cell organism (Protista) simple alga 2.1 billion years

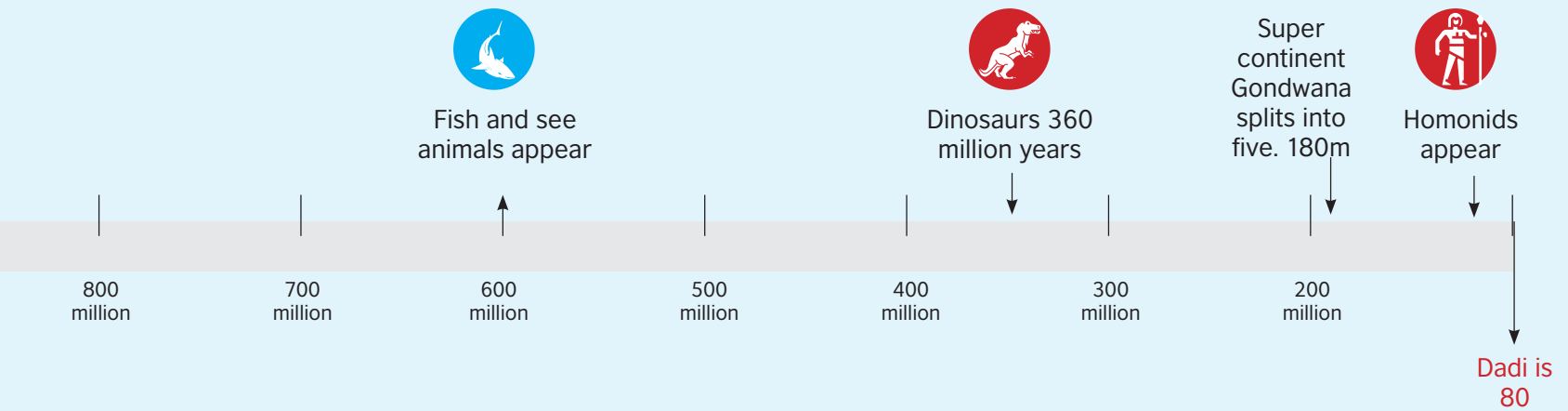


Plants and fungi

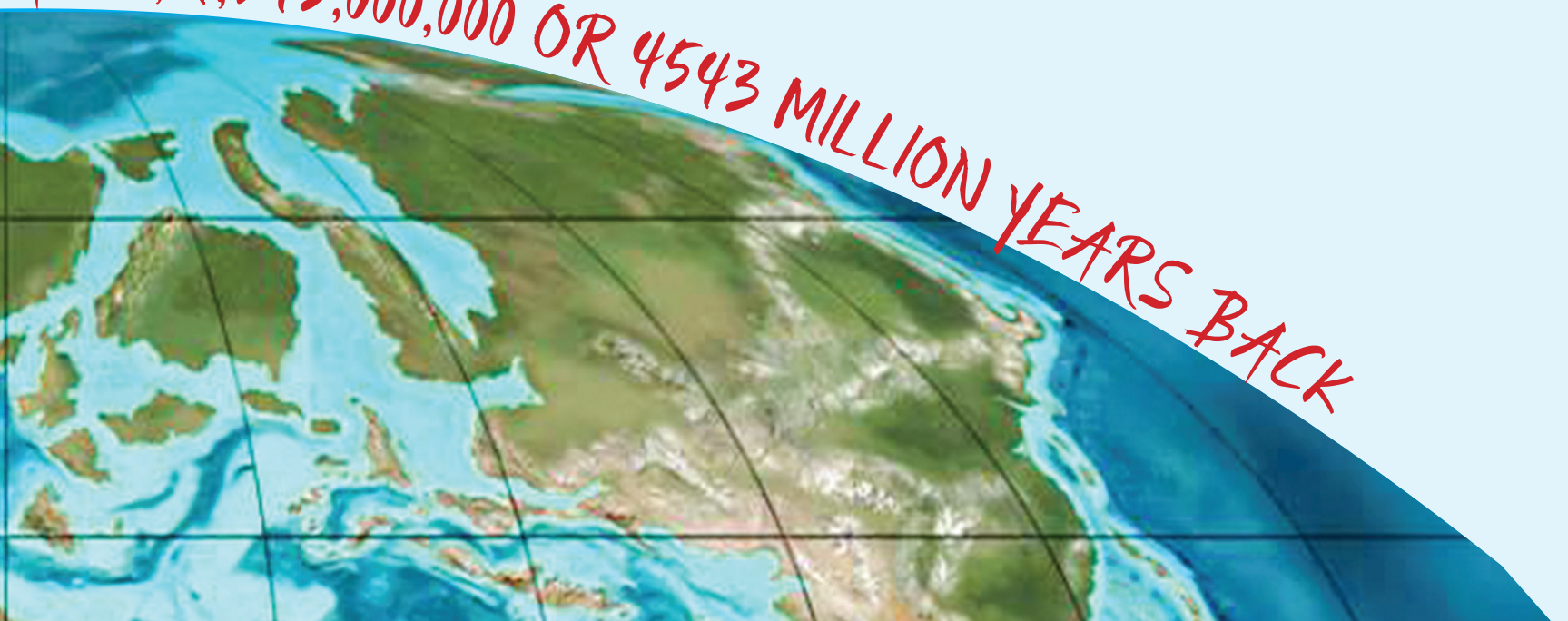


Evolution time-line

EARTH WAS BORN 4.543 BILLION YEARS AGO, THE



EARTH IS, 4,543,000,000 OR 4543 MILLION YEARS BACK





This is really fascinating. Let us now look at how life evolved on earth as she saw it in years of her life.

Dadi was young and only 18 when the earliest bacteria like cells formed in the sea. These were called archaea. That was 3.62 billion years ago.

The evolution of life on Earth was very slow. Dadi turned 28 when these cells were still evolving. They took one and a half billion years to evolve and in those many years Dadi crossed her youth.

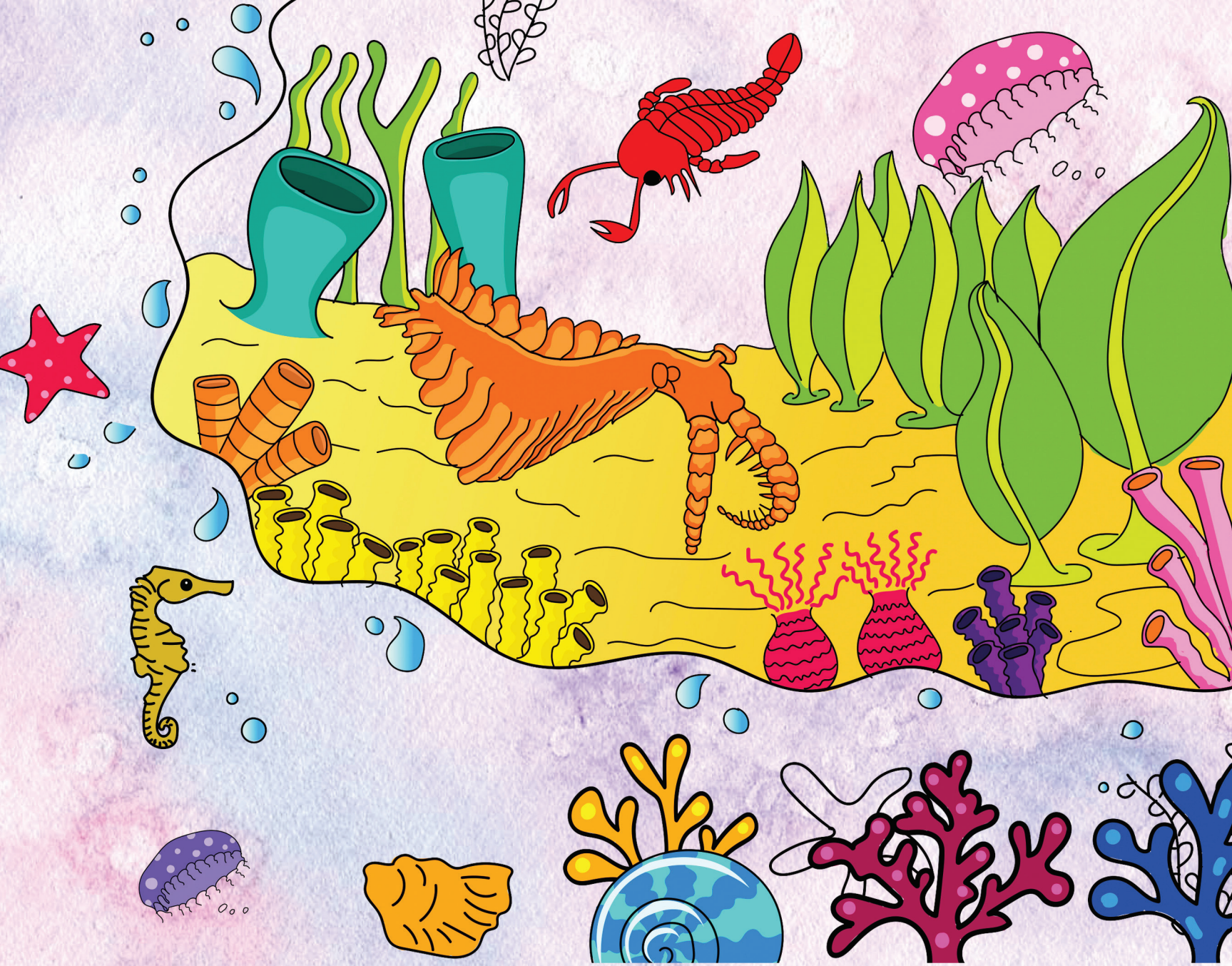


Dadi was a mature lady, when the single-celled bacteria erupted in oceans on our Earth but these cells couldn't multiply, i.e. they could not reproduce or make babies.

It was only when Dadi was 58 that Eukaryotes evolved. Eukaryotes are organisms that have cells with chromosomes and DNA inside them. These organisms could reproduce or make seeds – like plants. It was 1.2 billion years ago.

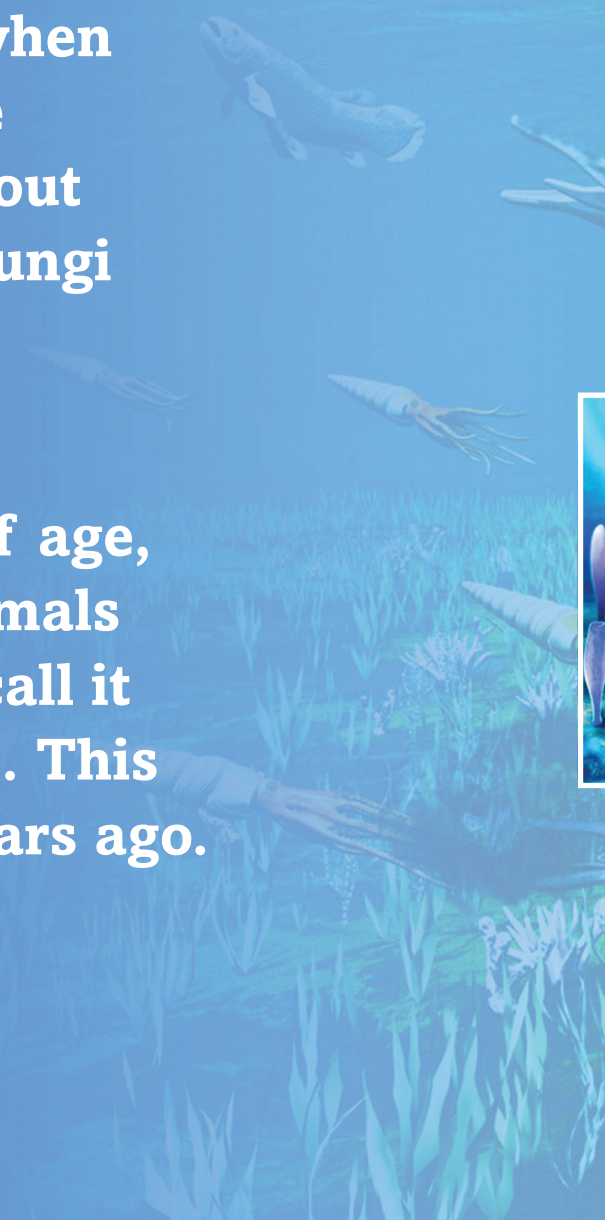
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And look at that, Dadi was 60-61 when the first forms of multi-cellular life appeared on our Earth which is about one billion years ago. Plants and Fungi came just around that time.

By the time Dadi was 70 years of age, the first simple life-forms of animals appeared in sea. The scientists call it 'The Cambrian explosion' of life. This was between 600-500 million years ago.







Dadi was now 71. On land, plants were growing fast, i.e., 475 million years ago. As Dadi moved closer to her 72nd birthday, the Earth saw its first seeds and insects, i.e. 400 million years ago.

A year later Dadi was surrounded by dinosaurs which ruled the Earth from 300 to 65 million years ago.





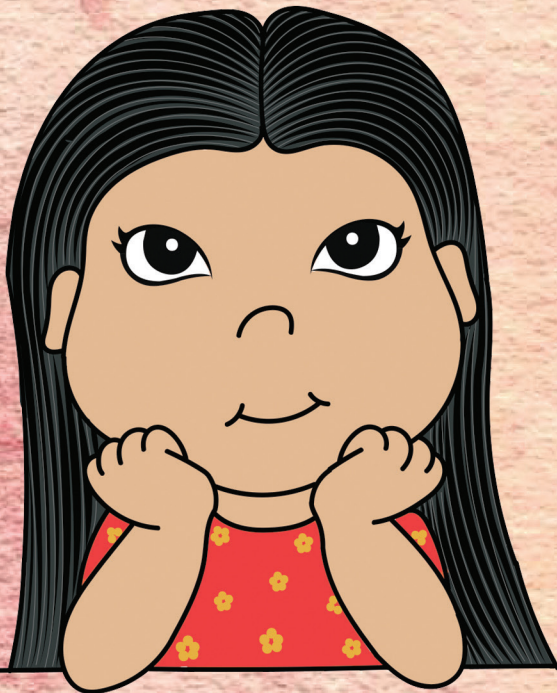
**On Dadi's 75th birthday she watched giants like
Tyrannosaurus and flying Pterosaurs singing
'Happy Birthday to Dadi'.**



Dadi had some more guests join the party when giant mammoths, rhinoceros, big lions, tigers and large mammal-like reptiles appeared on Earth before her next birthday.

It is just about 200 million years ago.

At this stage Dadi is 76 years young.



Dadi is coming of age just when the first hominids appear in caves around her. The great apes, the family of primates known as Pongo; Gorilla; Pan; and Homo, of which only we, the modern humans have survived.



It's been only 20 million or 20,000,000 years.

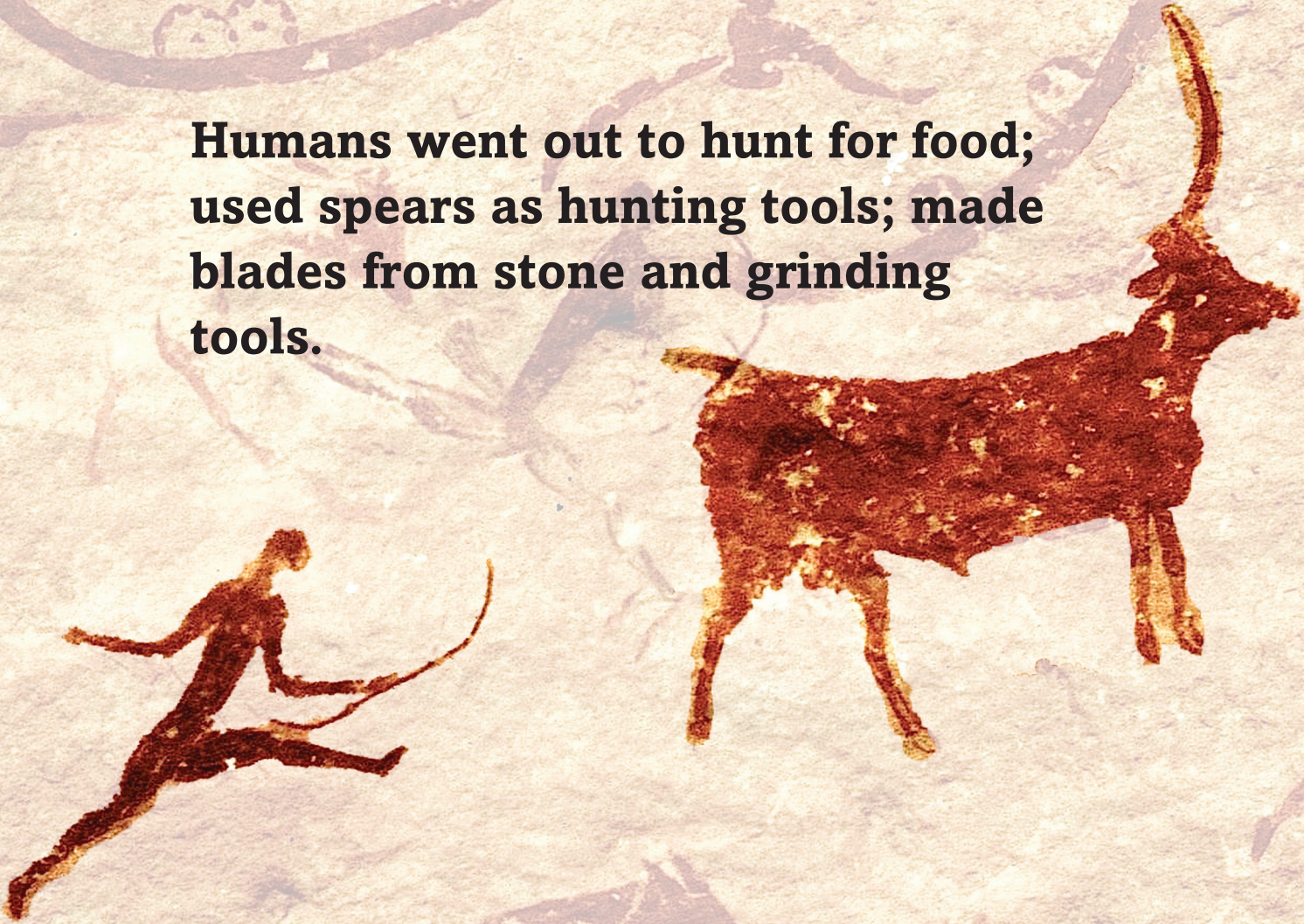
**Have you already started
thinking of humans like us?
Guess what!**

**Humans started moving from
Africa towards Asia and Europe
just about 75,000 years ago.**



This was only few weeks back in Dadi's life when the earliest human civilization happened. Humans built shelters and wooden huts to live in.

Humans went out to hunt for food; used spears as hunting tools; made blades from stone and grinding tools.





If you keep counting backward in human history and the modern civilization, Mughals came to India only 3 days back, the English empire left only this morning.

Mama and Papa were born half-an-hour back.

**And I, me, myself, that is cute Bindiya
was born just about 2 seconds back.**

So, who says Dadi is old...

Dadi is youuuunnnngg.

As young as the Earth.

Dadi @80 years is YOUNG.





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